

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 17, 2007. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 9 are in independent form. Claims 1-11, 13 and 15 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0029090 (Bertin et al.), and Claims 7, 8, 15 and 16, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that document in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0172223 (Ying et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto. The claimed apparatus comprises two USB controllers, namely, a USB device controller and a USB host controller, that are connectable with the external unit via a connection unit, and that serve to control communication between the connected external unit and the information processing apparatus. The claimed information processing apparatus also comprises a switching unit that can select either the USB device controller or the USB host controller as a controller for controlling the communication.

Bertin relates to master/slave apparatus for receiving audiovisual programs. That apparatus (1) includes an A type connector (12), a B type connector (11), a switching circuit (13) and a single USB controller (14). In this arrangement, the switching circuit

(13) can switch routes from any one of the A type and B type connectors to the USB controller (14).

Applicant respectfully points out, however, that the switching circuit (13) does not select between a USB device controller and a USB server controller, as recited in Claim 1. For at least that reason, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over *Bertin*.

Independent Claim 9 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Finally, while the Patent and Trademark Office has not yet provided confirmation that the priority document required in this application has been received, Applicant notes that that document is present in the Patent and Trademark Office file of this case on PAIR, and also notes that PAIR correctly indicates that this application claims foreign priority benefit of Japanese Patent Application 2003-044486 of February 21, 2003. Accordingly, it is understood that that priority information will be correctly reflected on the

face of any patent that may issue from the present application. If there is any reason why that is not correct, of course, the Examiner is respectfully requested so to advise in his next paper.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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